MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

FARM ADVISER

News Notes from the Field of the Extension Service, Released for Publication Every Two Weeks From the Office of the Director of Extension.

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NOTICE

The purpose of the Farm Adviser is to furnish a convenient and timely medium for supplying news notes regarding the work of the Agricultural College, Experiment Station, and Extension Service, in co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to the local press and to county demonstration agents with a view to keeping them and the people throughout the State informed of the activities of these agricultural agencies in their behalf. All requests for copies of this sheet should be directed to Reuben Brigham, In Charge of Publications, The Extension Service, College Park, Maryland.

NEW BULLETIN OFFERS TIMELY MANAGEMENT SUGGESTIONS

College Park, Md., March 4.

The Maryland Agricultural College Bulletin, entitled "Elementary Vocational Agriculture for Maryland Schools," recently issued for distribution to rural school teachers contains many helpful and timely suggestions of value to the adult farmer as well as to his children. Those relating to the management of farm animals during March read as follows:

During March make preparations for the coming of new litters of pigs. Fix the farrowing pens and provide bedding. When the young pigs arrive see that the sow receives proper food, water and attention. The success of the pigs depends very much on the attention the sow and the pigs receive during the first few weeks. Grazing is an important element in the ration and is an inexpensive feed. This should have been previously provided for.

"This is an important month with those interested in poultry. Natural and artificial incubation is in progress. Much of the year's success depends upon the results obtained this month and next. See that the sitting hens are comfortable and properly cared for and that the incubator is in proper condition for incubation. The inexperienced operators of incubators should follow directions closely. Large hatchings of thrifty chicks are the results desired. Failures are expensive both in eggs and in time.

"All draft horses should be well fed and kept in thrifty condition. The work of the farm is becoming heavy and the work animals should be in condition to render good service. Feed the dairy cows well. Do not let them drop off in the milk flow. Pastures will soon be ready and then it will be time enough to consider a let up in feed.

"Keep up with your book-keeping. Get the habit of keeping accurate records. Begin whitewashing the farm buildings. Use lime liberally about the premises. Every precaution should be taken to prevent vermin getting a start about poultry yards and houses. Be prepared to meet an epidemic of hog cholera. Keep in touch with the Maryland Agricultural College so that in the event of an outbreak of cholera in the community innoculating material may be had promptly.

USE OF THE WIND-MILL FOR MOTIVE POWER

College Park, Md., March 4.

In the first of a series of articles on "Tank and Pneumatic Water Supply for Country Homes," under preparation of Prof. H. Gwinner, of the Division of Engineering of the Agricultural College, the use of the wind-mill is treated as follows:

"The wind-mill is a very economical and practical agent for pumping water for domestic or house service. In addition to its being a good servant, the writer has always thought that it was an ornament to the landscape. Wind-mills are now constructed so that they are governed automatically; that is, by a controller in the tank or reservoir. This controller automatically pulls the wind-mill out of gear when there is sufficient water and will automatically return into gear when the height or pressure of water is reduced, which will permit pumping again when there is sufficient wind.

"In general, there are two types of wind-mills in use; the difference being in the materials used in the making of the sails of the wheel operated by the wind. One type has the sails of the wheel made of narrow strips of wood set at a very acute or "steep" angle. These mills run at a very slow speed and operate the pump direct from the crank. The second type has the sails of curved steel and these are set at a very flat angle on the wheel. These wheels have a very high speed, which is reduced by gearing to the proper speed for the pump.

"To do effective work, the velocity of the wind should not be less than eight miles an hour, which produces about one-third of a pound pressure per square foot of sail area. Under this pressure the mill will run slowly. Under a fifteen mile wind volocity, which corresponds to a pleasant, brisk gale, and using a sixteen foot wind wheel, about one thousand gallons of water will be delivered per hour at an elevation of one hundred feet. This is equivalent

to an actual, useful horse power of about four-tenths."

Any other desired information relative to the farm water supply will be furnished on request by the Mechanical Engineering Department, Division of Engineering, Maryland Agricultural College, College Park, Maryland.

SUGGESTIONS FOR STARTING SEED IN THE HOUSE

College Park, Md., March 4.

Suggestions regarding the sowing of seeds in the house to secure early blooms, as made by Prof. B. W. Anspon of the Maryland Agricultural College, are as follows:

By starting many of the annual plants in the house now, early blooms can be secured. This work can be carried on now. Of first importance is good seed. The greater percentage of failures are due to—first, poor seed; second, too deep planting.

In sowing seed in the house, one should have special containers or seed pans. One can purchase earthen ware seed pans 3 x 4 inches deep and 6 to 12 inches across from any dealer in pottery. Handy seed boxes or flats can be made of ⅜ to ½ inch lumber. Make a frame 3 inches deep and 9 x 12 inches, bottom of ¼ inch material, outside dimensions. Inside holes for drainage. These will be convenient when used in the window. A pane of glass 10 x 12 inches will cover them nicely. If larger flats are preferred, they can be made any size desired. Flats of medium size, that can be easily handled, are preferable.

Soil for the seed pans should be one part fine leaf mold and two parts good garden soil. Where the leaf mold cannot be obtained, use sand. Sift this mixture through a ¼ inch sieve and mix thoroughly. Fill in the seed pan or flat within ½ inch of the top. With a brick or block of wood, press down the soil evenly. Do not make too compact. It should be firm enough so that when the finger is pressed against it, a slight dent is left.

If very fine seed are used, it will be well to water the soil before sowing the seed. This can be done by placing the container in a pan of water. Water will seep up through the drainage holes into the soil. Leave in the water until moisture has reached the top. Then take out of pan and let drain for awhile until excess moisture has passed off. Another method is to apply water direct to the soil by means of a fine hose; i. e., fine sprinkler.

Take fine seed and scatter evenly over the surfaace of the soil. Do not cover. Coarse seeds should be covered lightly. Do not cover too deeply. An old rule that still is being followed is to plant to a depth equal to twice the diameter of the seed. Where the seed are to be covered, we can make light furrows across the flat with a straight stick. Sow the seed evenly and cover by adding new soil over them. Press seed lightly and water. Cover with a pane of glass to prevent evaporation. Place the seed pan in a north or east window until seedling appear; then bring to light to prevent plants growing spindly. Where such a window is not available, use a piece of paper to shade the seeds.

Remove glass for awhile each day to allow air to come in contact with the soil. Remove glass when seedlings are well essablished. When seedlings develop two or three leaves or are large enough to handle, prick off and put them to pots or flats. In using flats, set them two to three inches apart.

Seed that can be sown are Asters, Allyssum, Calliopsis, Cockscomb, Cosmos, Marigold, Petunia, Scarlet Sage, Verbena and Periwinkle.

ADVISES LOCAL ORGANIZATION FOR DAIRYMEN

College Park, Md., March 6.

In a recent circular prepared by the Division of Rural Economics and Sociology, suggestions are given as to the benefits to be secured from the forming of local dairymen's associations. The writer, Prof. F. B. Bomberger, after suggesting methods of organizations, says in part under the head, "What Community Orgation Does Not Do."

"It does not COMPEL any man to join with his fellow breeders in the work of breeding and rearing better and more useful dairy cattle. It merely offers him the opportunity.

"It does not furnish pure-bred bulls free of charge, or insure a herd of high-grade or pure-bred dairy cows without effort on the part of the farmer. It simply offers suggestions and encouragement as to how one can accomplish this end.

"It does not accomplish results in a single year that will change the type and color of a man's herd unless he has money which will warrant his selling his native cows and replacing them with high grades or pure breds. It tends, however, to keep a man persistently at the work of improving his cattle until sooner or later he secures a herd of one general type and color.

"It does not sell a man's surplus cattle for him nor dictate what price she shall accept for them. It aids him it coming in contact with the outside world and with buyers whom he must seek to please and make sales as he has opportunity to correspond or come in personal contact with them.

"It does not in any way destroy a man's individuality but sharpens his interest and brings out his personality more prominently by placing him in keen competition with his fellow breeders.

"It does not necessarily cause over production for the present that no man is obliged to rear any more cattle than he would see fit to keep if he were not a member of a community organization. If community organization encourages a man to keep improved cows in his herd it will certainly have done him a good turn, and, through the co-operation of his neighbors will place his business and their business upon a more substantial basis.

to an actual, useful home product about Christmas time."

[illegible] reading in the Home Economics Division of Engineering, Maryland Agricultural College, College Park, Maryland.

SUGGESTIONS FOR STARTING SEED IN THE HOUSE

College Park, Md., March 4.

Suggestions regarding the sowing of seeds in the home to assure early blooms, as made by Prof. R. W. Anspon of the Maryland Agricultural College, are as follows:

By starting many of the annual plants in the house now, early blooms can be secured. This work can be carried on now. Of first importance is good seed. The greater percentage of failures are due to—first, poor seed; second, too deep planting.

In sowing seed in the house, one should have special containers or seed pans. One can purchase earthen ware seed pans 3 x 4 inches deep and 6 to 12 inches across from any dealer in pottery. Handy seed boxes or flats can be made of ¾ to ¾ inch lumber. Make a frame 3 inches deep and 8 x 12 inches, bottom of ¾ inch mesh metallic [illegible]. Inside holes for drainage. These will be convenient when used in the window. A pane of glass 10 x 12 inches will cover them nicely. If larger flats are [illegible] they can be made [illegible].

Seed for the seed pans should be [illegible] part loam, part leaf mold and part sand. Where the last is not available, use a piece of paper to shade the seeds.

Remove glass for awhile each day to allow air to come in contact with the soil. Remove glass when seedlings are well established. When seedlings develop two or three leaves or are large enough to handle, prick off and put them to [illegible] flats. In these flats, set them two to three inches apart.

Seed that can be sown are Asters, Alyssum, Calliopsis, Cockscomb, Cosmos, Marigold, Petunia, Portulaca, Salpiglossis, Verbena and Pansies.

College Park, Md., March 6.

[illegible] the Finger is pressed against it, making [illegible] dent in [illegible].

A very fine seed can be used in which to water the soil before sowing the seed. This can be done by placing the container in a pan of water. Water will seep up through the drainage holes into the soil. Leave in the water until moisture has reached the top. Then take out of pan and let drain for awhile until excess moisture has passed off. Another method is to apply water direct to the soil by means of a fine mose; i. e., fine sprinkler.

Take fine seed and scatter evenly over the surface of the soil. Do not cover. Coarse seeds should be covered lightly. Do not cover too deeply. An old rule that will [illegible] being followed is to plant to a depth equal to twice the diameter of the seed. Where the seed are to be covered, we can make light furrows across the flat with a straight stick. Sow the seed evenly and cover by adding new soil over them. Press seed lightly and water. Cover with a pane of glass to prevent evaporation. Place the seed pan in a north or east window until seedling appear, then bring to light to prevent plants growing spindly. Where such a window is not available, use a piece of paper to shade the seeds.

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College Park, Md., March 6.

[illegible] the forming of local delivery associations. The writer [illegible] organizations, says in part under the head, "What Constitutes Operation Does Not Exist."

"It does not matter any man to join with his fellow farmers in the work of hauling and selling better and more useful dairy cattle. It merely offers him the opportunity.

"It does not furnish pure-bred male free of charge, or insure a herd of high grade or pure-bred dairy cows without effort on the part of the farmer. It simply offers suggestions and encouragement so that any one can accomplish this end.

"It does not accomplish results in a single year that will change the type and color of a man's herd unless he has money which will warrant his selling his native cows and replacing them with high grades or pure breds. It could, however, by keep a man persistently at the work of improving his cattle until sooner or later he secures a herd of one general type and color.

"It does not sell a man's surplus cattle for him nor dictate what price he shall accept for them. It aids him in coming in contact with the outside world and with buyers whom he must seek to place and make sales as he has opportunity to correspond or come in personal contact with them.

"It does not in any way destroy a man's individuality by changing his interest and bring out his personality more prominently by placing him in keen competition with his fellow farmers.

"It does not necessarily change one's [illegible] for the present with no [illegible] to see any change in [illegible]. It encourages a man to keep [illegible] and more useful cattle, to use a more suitable [illegible]